

April 21st
(Fourth Sunday of Easter)

“Listen To My Voice”

With Guest Thomas Johnston & Noisy Offering

Main Text: John 10:11-18
(Acts 4:5-12; 1 John 3:16-24)

In Palestine, the sheep and goats from multiple sheep folds would mix at the watering hole. When the shepherd was ready to move out, they would call, and the sheep would come out and follow the shepherd who led from in front. They knew the voice of their shepherd. In a world with many voices clamoring for attention and for us to follow, we need to know and become familiar with the voice of the good shepherd. We need to be able to discern that voice calling us to follow him. Peter struggled with following at times in the story. He was known to try and get in front of Jesus and lead him. In this reading, however, Peter is pointing to the one who leads him and directs all his ways and deeds. He points out that he has no power except in the name of Jesus. The letter of John reminds us that Jesus led the way with his love and now we are to listen to his voice to follow in his way. Jesus identifies himself as the Good Shepherd and contrasts himself with the hired hand. He then says that his sheep know his voice and follow. Do we know the difference between the voice of the hired hand and the shepherd? Are we prepared to follow the Good Shepherd? God's peace is present and calling us out of the fear of the world. Do you hear it? Will we follow?